

THE SIEGE OF VICKSBURG.

TERRIFIC BOMBARDMENT OF THE CITY.

Our Whole Line of Guns Opened.

A Conflagration in Vicksburg.

Capture of Twelve Rebel Messengers.

200,000 Percussion Caps in their Possession.

Johnston Reported Marching Toward Jackson.

He has but a Small Force With Him.

He is also Said to be Moving on Memphis.

Up to midnight no official advice from Vicksburg have been received later than those of the 31st of May; but a few additional particulars give rather a more cheerful indication of good results.

Extracts from to-day's Richmond papers are represented by those who read the telegrams as containing nothing of special interest from any quarter.

CAIRO, Friday, June 5, 1863.

The dispatch from Gen. Lyon, from Vicksburg, Monday night, has arrived. Firing was kept up all of Monday. Gen. Sherman's troops on the right wing, could be seen in motion. When the Lyon left at midnight, a conflagration was going on in the city. Some supposed our shells had set the buildings on fire, while others conjectured that the Rebels were destroying their supplies preparatory to surrendering.

Gen. Grant's numbers and position must be absolutely impregnable in a few days. Particulars cannot be given, but they are of the most cheerful character.

The steamers Chancellor and Atlantic, loaded with troops, when near Island No. 62, on Wednesday, were fired on by guerrillas from the Mississippi shore. One captain and two privates were killed, and several wounded.

CHICAGO, Friday, June 5, 1863.

A special dispatch from the rear of Vicksburg, dated May 31st, says:

The bombardment of Vicksburg continues.

All the guns, in position, opened fire at midnight, and continued their fire until daylight.

The rapidity of the firing was unparalleled.

It is believed great damage was inflicted by the fire.

Twelve Rebels were captured at daylight yesterday, endeavoring to run our pickets and get into the city.

Two hundred thousand percussion caps were found in their possession.

One of the Rebels, a boy, came out of the city ten days ago, took the oath of allegiance, and was allowed to go home, five miles back. He will probably be condemned as a spy.

Gen. Joe Johnston is reported to be moving toward Jackson, but not in force sufficient to attack us.

Gen. Joe Johnston Reported to be Advancing on Memphis.

PHILADELPHIA, Friday, June 5, 1863.

A special dispatch from Cincinnati to-day to *The Bulletin*, but entirely discredited by that paper, says:

"A report is current here to-day that Gen. Joe Johnston, instead of marching on Gen. Grant's rear to relieve Gen. Pemberton, is advancing in force on Memphis. The report comes in various shapes, and is somewhat credited."

The Sinking of the Cincinnati—Detailed Report by the Lieutenant Commanding.

WASHINGTON, Friday, June 5, 1863.

The following detailed report of the sinking of the gunboat Cincinnati has been received at the Navy Department:

MISSISSIPPI RIVER, FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1863.

SIR: In obedience to your order, the Cincinnati

got under way this morning at 7 o'clock, and steamed slowly down until a little above where the Rebels lay. When we rounded the bend, the enemy fired a shot from a gun called "Whistling Dick," but soon gave it up. At half-past eight, with a full load of steam, we stood for the position assigned us. The enemy fired rapidly and from all their batteries. When abreast of our position and rounding to, a ball entered the magazine, and she commenced sinking rapidly. Shortly after the starboard tiller was carried away. Before and after this the enemy fired with great accuracy, hitting us nearly every time. We were especially annoyed by plunging shots from the hills, and 8-inch rifled and 10-inch smooth-bore shots did us much damage.

The shots went entirely through our protection—bay and wood. And now, finding that the vessel would sink, I ran her up stream as near the right bank shore as our damaged steering apparatus would permit. About ten minutes after the sinking, we ran close in, got out a plank and put the wounded crew on it, and then made a dash for it to make fast to a tree to hold her until she sank. Unfortunately, the men ashore left the ladder without making it fast. The enemy were still firing, and the boat commenced drifting out. I sung out to the men to swim ashore, thinking we were in deeper water (as was reported) than we really were. I suppose about 15 were drowned and 25 killed and wounded, and one probably taken prisoner. This will sum up our whole loss. The boat sank in about three fathoms of water; the lee level and can easily be raised, but lies within range of the enemy's batteries. The vessel went down with her colors nailed to her mast—or rather to the stump of one—all three having been shot away. Our fire, until the magazine was crowded, was good, and I am satisfied did damage. We only fired at a two-gun water battery.

Very Respectfully, &c. GEO. M. BACHE,

To A. R. Adams, D. D. Porter, Lieut. Commanding.

Interesting Rebel Correspondence—Rebel Efforts in Encouraging Disunion at the North—"Traps to Catch Green Western Hoosiers."

Correspondence of The Chicago Tribune.

REAR OF VICKSBURG, May 25, 1863.

During the recent occupation of the city of Jackson by the Union Army, Gen. J. M. Tuttle, commanding a division in Sherman's Army Corps, made his headquarters at the house of F. T. Cooper, esq., the editor of *The Jackson Mississippi*. Among the papers which the fugitive editor left behind him, was the following letter from Douglas M. Hamilton, a politician of some note in Louisiana, and his reply thereto. I send you copies. They contain an interesting chapter in the secret history of the Rebellion. The originals are in the hands of Gen. Tuttle, subject to the inspection of the curious.

NEW LAUREL HILL, POST-OFFICE, WEST VIRGINIA, LA., Feb. 21, 1863.

To the Editors of The Mississippi.

SIR: In your paper of the 8th inst. is an editorial article to which I desire to call your attention. It is headed "The Future of the Confederate States." This paper, for some reason, failed to come by mail in due season, and arrived at the same time as some of the following week, or I should have called your notice to it sooner. Since that date, you have inserted an article intended for *De Bow's* Re-

New-York Tribune.

VOL. XXIII. NO. 6,918.

NEW-YORK, SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1863.

PRICE THREE CENTS.

view, by "Python," and notice the article editorially with favor. Be pleased to inform me candidly, as true men, if you are serious in proposing that any of the Free States of the old Union should be admitted into the Confederacy. I can hardly realize that you can be willing to any such proposition, but put forth these propositions as feelers among our own people, and to stimulate the miserable Western Yankees to persevere in their opposition to Lincoln and his Abolition Administration, and by producing dissension, quarrels, and perhaps blows and bloodshed among our common enemy, relieve us in a measure of the tremendous power they are preparing to bring against us.

There is no doubt that our enemy is greatly crippled already by the want of unanimity of sentiment and feeling between the people and the army on the one side, and the administration on the other. And by this private quarrelling among themselves, we have profited a great deal, and will continue to profit until we gain our complete independence, by fostering and encouraging it. But can we not accomplish all that is necessary and proper, and at the same time hold out no promise which in the future we may hesitate to fulfill. I think we can. We can offer to them, if necessary, in a war against Lincoln, Abolition and New-England Yankees, and after watching and putting to death every public man in the old Union who has been a counselor or adviser of Lincoln, we can make a treaty of peace and commerce with them, granting them the free navigation of the Mississippi to its mouth (a right we never desired them, however), and moderate privileges of trade with us. But further than this I would not go, and I hope you would not either.

Your paper, for some reason, is taken as an organ of the President, and these views of yours may be taken as his. Perhaps they are, though I trust not. I was born in Williams County, Mississippi, near where Jeff Davis was raised, and my family were schoolmates and friends of his. I, myself, have always esteemed and admired him, and from the beginning of this revolution, have looked upon him as a second Washington, to lead our people through it to a successful termination.

But if he favors a re-construction of a Union of Free and Slave States, after the experience which we have given him credit for too much penetration and sagacity.

In several public addresses and messages very lately, he has taken occasion to declare most positively and distinctly, that he would never agree under any circumstances to a reconstruction of the old Union. But he has never declared that he never would favor a Union of Slave and Free States. He is a man who keeps his own counsel, and talks only what he pleases, keeps silent when he pleases. He may have reserved his opinion for a fitting time for public expression.

I am by nature, education and religion a Yankee-hater. I loathed the old Union, and no act of any people ever afforded me half the delight that the secession of the Slave States from the old Union did. You may imagine, therefore, my chagrin and surprise when I notice in the columns of a leading paper, in one of the leading secession States, articles advocating a reconstruction of the Union. And this at the very crisis of revolution, when our independence, which we have suffered so much for, and fought so gloriously for, is within our grasp, and foreign nations, as well as Yankeeedom, are on the point of declaring their recognition of our independence.

My dear sir, write to me in reply and say that you are not in earnest, but are baiting traps to catch green Western hoosiers. You cannot surely be planning to permit these vermin, uncouth, fanatical, and depraved, as they have proved themselves to be, to enter again our Legislative halls, divide our offices of profit and trust, and part in freely dividing the property of our own citizens, of voting, owning property, etc., etc. You must have learned by the experience of the political agitators of the past twenty-five years, accompanied by hatred, abuse, and jealousy, followed by a war characterized by more outrages, plunderings, burnings, cruelties, indignities, and bloodshed, than any on record, that such a thing is too absurd, too monstrous to do.

I set down to write you six lines, and find myself entering into an argument with you. Now I never intended any argument with you on this subject, as men can only argue that about which they hold similar opinions.

Should you continue to write similar editorials to the one alluded to, however, I shall conclude that we do entertain opinions which are separated as far as the poles.

I will not let any of your secrets out of the bag, if you confide them to me, and request me not to divulge them; but allow me to proceed in your baiting for the Hoosiers, and not interfere, though I may not entertain the same notions as to the strict morality of the course. But if you write to me, and say candidly that you are perfectly willing to join them again, and live under the same Government and laws, I must take ground against you, and I will spend the balance of my days in fighting against any Union with them, just as I have fought all my past life in trying to get rid of them.

I will fight you honorably, and when I know how you stand, I will enter the list, if in earnest; but if you are not, I will reserve myself for the first public man who broaches to me, in my obnoxious doctrine. I have heard from you, in reply, at earliest convenience.

Respectfully, your obedient servant, DOUGLAS M. HAMILTON.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER, FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1863.

Private.] REPLY.

DOUGLAS M. HAMILTON—Dear Sir: Your favor of the 21st ult. is received. You are right in your surprise that the article is so far from being in your favor as to be so much against you. The papers printed here go regularly to Western soldiers, by some means, and are not unfrequently republished in Western papers.

From the beginning of the struggle it has been an object with me to draw a distinction between Western and Eastern soldiers, of the North—to give the first credit for all achievements of Federal arms, and denounce the latter as cowardly, malignant and intolerant, hating thereby to produce a division among them, and thus relieve ourselves; and this, it must be confessed, is about the only object I hope to attain. I am not a politician, and I do not intend to aid in accomplishing by presenting to the West a seeming willingness to admit them into our Confederacy, upon our own terms and conditions.

While there are certain conditions upon which I would not be opposed to their admission—the entire expulsion of Abolitionism and fanaticism—the adoption of our Constitution, and the unrestrained toleration of Slavery—yet I am not wild enough to believe that even the Western States will ever reach this standard, and hence a political brotherhood with them is something which I expect not desire. My sole object, for some reason, failed to come by mail in due season, and arrived at the same time as some of the following week, or I should have called your notice to it sooner. Since that date, you have inserted an article intended for *De Bow's* Re-

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LATER FROM NEW-ORLEANS.

THE ATTACK ON PORT HUDSON.

A Severe and Desperate Fight.

Brig.-Gen. Sherman Badly Wounded.

Col. Paine and Brig.-Gen. Ricketson Killed.

Col. Cowles of the 128th New-York Killed.

Our Loss Nearly Three Thousand.

A NEGRO REGIMENT BADLY CUT UP.

THEY FOUGHT GALLANTLY.

The Fight Going On at Last Accounts.

The Capture of the Place Certain.

The Morning Star, A. D. Perkins, Commander, left New-Orleans at 8:30 a. m. 29th ult., arrived at Havana at 6:30 p. m. on the 31st. Left Havana June 1 at 3:30 p. m., and arrived at this port at an early hour this morning, having encountered heavy weather off Havana.

In the Department of the Gulf the whole interest in military affairs centered in Port Hudson, which was completely invested by the Government forces. Gen. Banks commanded in person a force supposed to be sufficient for its reduction. The enemy's strength within their defenses is estimated at from 10,000 to 12,000 men.

Fighting was still in progress at the date of the departure of the Morning Star.

Brig.-Gen. Sherman arrived at New-Orleans on the night of the 28th, severely but not dangerously wounded.

The 2d Louisiana negro regiment distinguished itself especially in charging upon the enemy's sappers, losing in killed over 600.

Gen. Weitzel had captured a portion of the line of defense, and held one of the enemy's heaviest batteries.

The North Star brings \$150,000 (Mexican) on freight from New-Orleans, and 400 bales of cotton. We are indebted to C. H. Denison, Purser, for prompt delivery of our packages.

From Our Special Correspondent.

NEW-ORLEANS, Friday, May 29, 1863.

As I told you in my last, the fight at Port Hudson is fairly started.

Rebel rumors are numerous on the street. All that is known trustworthy is that the fight is a severe one. Brig.-Gen. Sherman is badly wounded in the leg, above the knee, and has been brought to the city. It is hoped his leg may be saved. Col. Paine and Brig.-Gen. Ricketson are reported killed—rumor says our loss in killed and wounded is nearly 3,000.

One of the negro regiments raised here under Col. Stafford, is said to be badly cut up. They fought gallantly.

I can get no trustworthy information. But no one doubts the result we shall know this afternoon or to-morrow. Banks went to take Port Hudson, and I believe he will do it. The Rebel force is said to be near 20,000.

USMRA.

From Our Special Correspondent.

NEW-ORLEANS, May 29, 1863.

We have had a desperate struggle at Port Hudson, the result of which is at present unknown. The troops are confident of ultimate success, and have lost none of their enthusiasm. Even the wounded display great anxiety and eagerness to return to the scene of conflict.

The enclosed meager list of those killed and disabled will reflect a deep gloom in the North, as it has done here. Since Friday, May 22, a continuous bombardment has been maintained by Admiral Farragut's fleet, and the 1st Vermont Battery, Capt. Ribbard, has annoyed the batteries during the day.

At 1 p. m., on Wednesday the battle commenced. The lines extended for a distance of nearly four miles in front of the enemy's works. The extreme right was given to Gen. Wertz, Gen. Grover occupying the next position, Gen. Angur the third, and Gen. Sherman the left.

On the left, the 165th New-York, Lieut.-Col. Abel Smith, were ordered to discharge their muskets and charge upon the enemy's ranks. For the following details of the movement I am indebted to Sergeant-Major Casselli A. Palmieri, who is reported as having displayed unusual gallantry:

Gen. Sherman intended to carry a section of the fortifications at the point of the bayonet. The 2d Drurye Zouaves and the 177th New-York made a desperate onset, and were met by a rain-storm of bullets. Lieut.-Col. Smith of the former regiment was severely wounded. Finding it impossible to successfully accomplish the daring purpose, a retreat was effected.

Col. Clark of the 6th Michigan carried the colors of his regiment inside the first line of fortifications, and raised them upon the Rebel flagstaff. The 128th New-York, Col. Cowles, immediately followed, and were within the walls of the earthwork, when both regiments were forced to retire on account of a lack of support by the 15th New-Hampshire. Col. Cowles was killed.

Col. Clark was so terribly stunned by a shell while retreating that he remained senseless for an hour. He escaped unhurt, and was conspicuous for bravery and enthusiasm. Gen. Neal Dow was slightly wounded, and Gen. Sherman rallied and took charge of Dow's brigade, when he received a compound fracture of the right leg from a grape shot. Gen. Sherman's conduct is highly applauded.

The 3d Regiment Louisiana Native Guard, Col. Nelson, attracted great attention for their undaunted bravery. They sustained a loss of nearly 600 men. Their bearing upon this occasion has forever settled in this Department all question as to the employment of negro troops. Nearly every officer was killed.

Capt. Badeau of Gen. Sherman's staff was seriously wounded. Sergt.-Maj. Palmieri, of the 2d Drurye Zouaves obtained four assistants and carried him upon a litter for a distance of nearly two miles to the hospital.

After the death of Col. Cowles, the command of

the 128th New-York devolved upon Captain Gifford, who was almost immediately wounded. Capt. Keyes, a mere youth, then assumed the duties of Colonel. His voice could be heard above the roar of artillery, urging forward his men. He displayed the bravery of a lion.

The struggle lasted until 5 p. m., when a general order was dispatched along the lines to retreat to the original position occupied at the commencement of the action. I am unable to give you even a conjecture as to the result. Gen. Weitzel is reported to have taken two batteries.

The propeller *Ida* arrived here last evening from Baton Rouge. Gen. Sherman and Dow were brought down upon stretchers. The body of Col. D. S. Cowles was on board. From S. Bryant of the 128th New-York, I learn that at 2 a. m. yesterday heavy cannonading could be heard at Port Hudson. Our loss is heavy.

It is reported to be at least 4,000. I am informed that the Rebels could not have had over 10,000 men. Gen. Banks moved from point to point along the lines with perfect coolness. His quick eye would detect a lagging movement or an unprotected position, and an aid would be dispatched with instructions. He indulged in no vain display of staff officers.

The fight was without doubt renewed at day-break yesterday. The most perfect confidence was felt that the Rebel stronghold would succumb to the Union forces.

An expedition, composed of eight regiments, under command of Colonels Chickering of the 41st Massachusetts and Morgan of the 90th New-York, arrived last evening at Algiers, having marched thither from Franklin.

These troops will be immediately sent to the relief of Gen. Banks at Port Hudson. Of the details of their march I will give you more hereafter.

The following list of officers killed and wounded has been furnished me by a staff officer:

Gen. T. W. Sherman, seriously.

Gen. Neal Dow, slightly.

Col. D. S. Cowles, killed.

Col. Paine, 2d Louisiana, killed.

Col. Kingman, 15th New-Hampshire, slightly.

Major-General Carr, 15th N. Y., badly.

Major-General Engineer, killed.

Col. Bradley, 128th New-York, seriously.

Col. Smith, 128th New-York, seriously.

Col. Clark, 6th Michigan, killed.

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